147 colleges, recognised by Medical Council of India and 21 new medical colleges permitted by Central Government to conduct M.B.B.S. course.

(b) As per the information received from the Medical Council of India, approximately 17,000 students are passing out from medical colleges in India every year.

(c) and (d) On behalf of Medical Council of India, A.F. Ferguson and Co. carried out a study to determine the cost of medical education for M.B.B.S. course and in its report of March, 1998 indicated that the average cost per undergraduate student per annum varies from Rs. 88,000/- to Rs. 3.20 lakhs, as per the management of the College by Government or Private body and location of the college and other facilities made available to the institution.

UNICEF Report on AIDS

3460. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) wheather India has been shown as the most AIDS infected country, in the world, as per the UNICEF report released recently in regard to the progress made by various nations;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, alongwith the percentage of Indian population infected with AIDS, as per the UNICEF Report; and

(c) whether Government have made any independent assessment in this regard so as to konw the actual number of petients, as the number of AIDS infected people shown in the UNICEF Report seem to be much more and may create panic in the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) No, Sir. The UNICEF report has not shown state- wise, prevalence of HIV infections. However, Nationwide sentinel surveillance carried out by the Government shows that the estimated number of HIV infections was 3.5 Million as on mid 1998.

Population Stabilization Policy

3461. SHRI K. KALAVEKATA RAO:
DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: